

Message Text

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
XMT AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING FEB 15, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON
BRIEFING FEBRUARY 15, 1978:

Q: KEN, FROM SALISBURY NOW COME REPORTS THAT PRIME
MINISTER SMITH AND INTERNAL BLACK LEADERS HAVE AGREED ON A
NEW CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK. THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN
SUPPORTING ANOTHER APPROACH. I WONDER IF YOU HAD ANY
COMMENT ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND WHETHER THAT
MEANS YOU WILL CURTAIL OR ALTER YOUR ALTERNATIVE
APPROACH TO A SETTLEMENT FOR RHODESIA.

A: BARRY, ALL WE HAVE SEEN ARE THE PRESS REPORTS AND WE
ARE NOT REALLY IN A POSITION TO COMMENT UNTIL WE HAVE HAD
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AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE DETAILS OF WHATEVER AGREEMENT
THE PARTICIPANTS MAY REACH.

Q: APPARENTLY THEY HAVE REACHED ONE. DO YOU WELCOME IT
AT ALL?

A: FIRST OF ALL, LET'S DISTINGUISH BETWEEN A SETTLEMENT

AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN AGREEMENT WHICH MAY BE A PARTIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CERTAIN PARTIES WHICH THEY HOPE WILL ABOUT AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE. THE QUESTION OF PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION IS ONLY A PART OF WHAT MUST GO INTO AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

OUR POSITION REMAINS WHAT IT HAS BEEN. WE SUPPORT CERTAIN PRINCIPLES WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE NECESSARY TO PRODUCE A LASTING AND EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT.

AS YOU KNOW, BARRY, I BELIEVE, OUR CONCEPT IS CONTAINED IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. THESE WERE PUBLISHED IN A WHITE PAPER LAST SEPTEMBER. I DON'T HAVE TO REVIEW THAT FOR YOU, BUT IT IS BASICALLY THE POSITION THAT WE HAVE HAD; A SETTLEMENT NEEDS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL PARTIES.

Q: I UNDERSTAND.

WHAT I AM NOT CLEAR ABOUT RIGHT NOW IS WHETHER YOU SEE THIS AS ONLY PARTIALLY DEALING WITH WHAT HAS TO BE DEALT WITH OR IF THIS IS JUST A PARTIAL REPORT AND YOU DON'T KNOW IF IT COVERS ADEQUATELY THE OTHER THINGS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN.

A: WE DON'T HAVE FULL INFORMATION, BUT ACCORDING TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INFORMATION WE HAVE THIS WILL NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS AS WE SEE THEM, WHICH ARE THOSE OUTLINED IN THE U.S.-U.K. PROPOSAL THAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT.

Q: WOULD YOU JUST GIVE US A SHORTHAND ACCOUNTING OF THE THINGS THAT AREN'T INCLUDED?

A: LET ME INSTEAD, BARRY, REVIEW WHAT WE OUTLINED AS THE PRINCIPLES IN THE PROPOSALS, THE U.S.-U.K. PROPOSALS. THESE PRINCIPLES CALL FOR AN ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO A MAJORITY RULED DEMOCRATIC ZIMBABWE WITH A GOVERNMENT CHOSEN IN IMPARTIALLY ADMINISTERED ELECTIONS FREE OF INTIMIDATION. IT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THESE PRINCIPLES THAT IN SUCH A TRANSITION THAT ALL PARTIES NEED TO BE REPRESENTED.

Q: YOU DON'T THINK THIS DOES THAT?

A: THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: DOES IT NOT DO IT BECAUSE THERE ARE OUTSIDE FORCES WHICH ARE GOING TO KEEP IT FROM BEING PEACEFUL AND WHICH

MIGHT INTRODUCE INTIMIDATION OR WHY DO YOU THINK IT
WON'T DO IT?

A: THERE ARE ELEMENTS THAT ARE NOT REPRESENTED. THERE ARE
ELEMENTS, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THAT THE AGREEMENT WHICH
SEEMS TO BE BEING WORKED TOWARDS DOES NOT INCLUDE.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THEN THAT YOU ARE SAYING THAT THESE
ELEMENTS THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT
PEOPLE, IN EFFECT, HAVE A VETO ON ANY AGREEMENT REACHED
WITH THE INTERNAL PARTIES?

A: HENRY, I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT VETO AND I AM NOT
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USING THE WORD VETO. WHAT WE ARE SAYING IS THAT ALL
ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY NEED TO BE INCLUDED. I REALLY
DON'T WANT TO SAY MORE THAN THAT BECAUSE WE ARE TALKING
ABOUT AN AGREEMENT, OR A PARTIAL AGREEMENT, ABOUT WHICH
WE DO NOT HAVE FULL DETAILS. THE REMARKS I AM MAKING
ARE ONLY PRELIMINARY BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO
STUDY IT.

Q: IF ALL ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY NEED TO BE INCLUDED
THEN, ARE YOU SAYING THAT ANY AGREEMENT REACHED INTER-
NALLY IN WHICH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DOES NOT PARTICIPATE
IS NOT GOING TO BE A GOOD AGREEMENT?

A: HENRY, ALL I WANT TO SAY IS THAT WE HOPE, WE FEEL,
THAT THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PRO-
POSALS ARE THE ONES THAT ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE MET
IN ORDER TO HAVE A LONG-TERM AND DURABLE SOLUTION.

Q: AND THEY CANNOT BE MET WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THEN?

A: REALLY I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAY ANY MORE
THAN I HAVE SAID.

Q: THAT IS THE IMPLICATION OF WHAT YOU ARE SAYING THOUGH
AND I AM TRYING TO GET IT CLARIFIED.

A: A SOLUTION OR SETTLEMENT IS GOING TO HAVE TO INCLUDE

ALL ELEMENTS IN THE SOCIETY. NOW HOW THAT IS ARRIVED AT,
I REALLY CAN'T SPECULATE ON ANY FURTHER BECAUSE WE WANT
TO SEE MORE ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED ON IN THESE TALKS.

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Q: KEN, ISN'T THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND OTHERS ON RECORD AS SAYING THAT A SETTLEMENT HAS TO INCLUDE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT?

A: I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK AND SEE THE EXACT WORDS, BUT THE IMPLICATION IS THERE. IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ALL

PARTIES, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ANY CONSIDERATION.

Q: KEN, DOES THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLES AS YOU STATED THEM EARLIER -- ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE?

A: ROY, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING HERE WITH WHICH I CAN GO INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT POSITION.

WE DID HAVE RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING REALLY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

Q: IN LIGHT OF THOSE RECENT CONVERSATIONS, COULD YOU GET AN ANSWER ON THAT QUESTION IF THEY ACCEPT THOSE SAME PRINCIPLES?

A: I THINK WE WILL JUST HAVE TO LET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT

SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES AS TO REACTIONS TO REPORTS OF THIS AGREEMENT.

Q: KEN, WHAT I GATHER YOU ARE SAYING IS THAT REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THESE TALKS BETWEEN SMITH AND THE INTERNAL GROUPS, YOU THINK THAT THE APPROACH IS WRONG AND THAT NO MATTER WHAT THEY ACHIEVE IT WILL NOT BE SATISFACTORY TO THE UNITED STATES.

A: JIM, LET ME GO BACK TO THE FIRST THING I SAID, WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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IS WE ARE REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT FULLY OR TO COMMENT IN DETAIL UNTIL WE HAVE SEEN MORE ABOUT THIS REPORTED AGREEMENT.

Q: KEN, THERE IS ONE THING I AM NOT QUITE CLEAR ON.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT ALL ELEMENTS MUST BE INCLUDED IN

THE PROCESS OF REACHING A SETTLEMENT OR THAT SETTLEMENT IS INVALID FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW OR ARE YOU SAYING SIMPLY THAT ALL ELEMENTS MUST BE INCLUDED IN ANY TRANSITION GOVERNMENT THAT IS ESTABLISHED AS A RESULT OF A SETTLEMENT BEING REACHED?

A: WHAT I AM SAYING IS MORE GENERAL. I AM SAYING THAT A LONG TERM AND DURABLE SOLUTION HAS TO BE ONE IN WHICH ALL ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY ARE REPRESENTED.

Q: WHICH ELEMENTS ARE LEFT OUT IN THIS?

A: YOU HAVE SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS REPRESENTED BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WHICH ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS.

Q: THOSE ARE THE ONLY GROUPS? THAT IS THE ONLY GROUP LEFT OUT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT?

A: AS FAR AS I KNOW, THOSE ARE THE SIGNIFICANT GROUPS THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

Q: KEN, IN THIS CRITERIA THAT YOU HAVE ENUNCIATED OF MAJORITY-RULED, DEMOCRATICALLY REACHED CHOSEN IN IMPARTIAL ADMINISTERED ELECTIONS FREE FROM INTIMIDATION, UNCLASSIFIED

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HOW MANY COUNTRIES IN AFRICA DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE HAVE THIS?

A: I DON'T KNOW, LES.

Q: IS IT POSSIBLE THAT WE ARE APPLYING A STANDARD TO RHODESIA THAT WE DO NOT ASK IN ALMOST ANY OTHER PLACE IN AFRICA?

A: LES, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A SITUATION WHICH IS IN THE PROCESS OF EVOLVING IN WHICH A MINORITY HAS DOMINATED A MAJORITY AND WHICH WE HOPE WILL DEVELOP IN SUCH A WAY THAT THERE WILL BE MAJORITY RULE.

Q: I UNDERSTAND THAT.

A: AND I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE POSITION OF COMPARING THE OTHER COUNTRIES.

Q: BUT MY QUESTION IS, IS THERE ANY OTHER PLACE IN AFRICA WHERE YOU FEEL THAT THESE CONDITIONS APPLY?

A: LES, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GET INTO COMPARING,
BECAUSE RIGHT NOW WE ARE TALKING ABOUT RHODESIA.

Q: KEN, WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND WHEN YOU SAY FREE
OF INTIMIDATION?

A: JUAN, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ENOUGH HERE TO GO INTO ANY
KIND OF AN EXEGESIS OF THE GUIDANCE, BUT WE ARE PUTTING
THIS DOWN AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE, WHICH, I THINK, WILL BE
FUNDAMENTAL TO A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. I DON'T HAVE ANY-
THING SPECIFIC FOR YOU.

Q: IT APPLIES TO BOTH SIDES?
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A: ANYBODY. WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE INTIMIDATION FROM
ANY SIDE.

Q: KEN, CAN YOU ELABORATE ON WHY AN AGREEMENT HAS TO BE
BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES YOU ENUNCIATE? I CAN THINK OF
MAYBE TWO POSSIBILITIES THAT WOULD HELP ILLUSTRATE MY

QUESTION, ALL RIGHT -- BECAUSE YOU THINK A SETTLEMENT
WON'T HOLD UNLESS EVERYBODY IS REPRESENTED; BECAUSE YOU
BELIEVE IN MAJORITY RULE; BECAUSE YOU THINK THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT IS A POWERFUL ELEMENT, AND ALL POWERFUL ELEMENTS
SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO PUT THEIR -- TO PARTICIPATE IN A
SETTLEMENT. WHAT IS BEHIND THAT, A ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE
PRINCIPLE, OR PRAGMATIC -- WHAT ARE YOU DRIVING AT?

A: WHAT WE ARE SUGGESTING, BARRY, IS THAT THERE ARE
IMPORTANT ELEMENTS THAT REPRESENT IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE
SOCIETY THAT WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED IN A PARTIAL SETTLE-
MENT.

Q: AND IT IS ONLY FAIR, OR IF THEY ARE NOT IN THERE,

THEY ARE LIABLE TO UPSET THE SETTLEMENT?

A: I WILL GO BACK TO WHAT I SAID ABOUT A DURABLE SETTLE-
MENT. WE ARE HOPING THAT ANYTHING WORKED OUT IS LONG-
TERM.

Q: KEN, THE INFERENCE I DRAW IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE
FULL DETAILS YET, SO YOU DON'T WANT TO COMMENT IN DETAIL.
THE IMPLICATION OF THAT IS THAT ONCE FULL DETAILS ARE
FORTHCOMING, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THEY MAY HAVE WORKED OUT
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A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO THIS COUNTRY. AND I ALSO INFER THAT YOU DON'T THINK THESE PEOPLE CAN WORK OUT ANY KIND OF SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

A: LARS, I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE. I THINK WE WILL JUST HAVE TO STICK WITH SAYING -- WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SEE FULLER INFORMATION.

Q: IS IT A POSSIBILITY THAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE WORKED OUT A SOLUTION THAT COULD SATISFY YOU, OR ARE THEIR TALKS AS CONSTITUTED NOW DOOMED IN ADVANCE?

TRY TO SAY ANYTHING IS DOOMED IN ADVANCE. WE ARE SAYING WE WANT TO SEE FURTHER WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE GOING BACK TO WHAT WE SAID ABOUT THE PRINCIPLES WHICH WE THINK HAVE GOT TO BE PRESENT IN ANY SETTLEMENT, ANY SOLUTION, WHICH IS GOING TO BE A LONG-TERM, DURABLE SETTLEMENT WHICH REPRESENTS ALL OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

Q: I THINK THIS IS WHY JEFF'S QUESTION IS QUITE IN POINT. ARE YOU, FOR EXAMPLE, LOOKING FOR A CLAUSE IN THE AGREEMENT THAT WOULD WELCOME, INVITE, OR MAKE OTHER PROVISIONS FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO PARTICIPATE PEACEFULLY IN AN ELECTION? IS THAT THE SORT OF THING YOU ARE LOOKING FOR?

A: I THINK A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE ALL ELEMENTS WOULD BE CERTAINLY SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

Q: ISN'T IT TRUE THAT SMITH HAS INVITED NKOMO AND MUGABE TO JOIN THE TALKS?

A: I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, WHETHER HE HAS.

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Q: WHEN YOU SAY THESE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS, IN WHAT FASHION ARE THEY IMPORTANT? IS IT AS TO THEIR NUMBERS?

A: TO THEIR POLITICAL ROLE.

Q: I WASN'T AWARE THEY HAD A POLITICAL ROLE.

A: WELL, I SUPPOSE IT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU DEFINE "POLITICAL ROLE." THEY ARE POLITICAL ELEMENTS. THEY ARE SOMETHING THAT HAS GOT TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THIS EQUATION.

Q: KEN, FOLLOWING THE MALTA TALKS LATE LAST MONTH, SECRETARY OWEN, AMBASSADOR YOUNG, MUGABE, AND NKOMO TALKED ABOUT A FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ABOUT SUCH A MEETING?

A : NOT NOW, GEORGE, I DON'T.

Q.: IT SEEMS TO ME THAT BOTH LES AND BARRY HAVE RAISED LEGITIMATE POINTS WHICH YOU HAVE NOT ADDRESSED AT ALL, AND THAT IS BY WHAT RIGHT DOES THE UNITED STATES PROPOSE ANY KIND OF FORMULA IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE, WHEN I AM AT A LOSS TO REMEMBER ANY OTHER TIME WITH ANY COUNTRY -- AND YOU CAN EXPAND IT BEYOND AFRICA, IF YOU WANT TO -- WHEN WE HAVE DONE A SIMILAR THING. COULD YOU PLEASE SEE IF YOU CAN FIND SUCH AN EXAMPLE, OR AT LEAST GIVE SOME CLEAR POLICY MOTIVATION -- AND I THINK THAT IS WHAT BARRY WAS DRIVING AT -- FOR THIS PARTICULAR STATEMENT NOW IN THIS INSTANCE?

A: TED, WE HAVE COOPERATED WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM. ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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ALONG WE HAVE MAINTAINED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS THE LEGITIMATE DOMAIN OVER RHODESIA. WE HAVE NEVER RECOGNIZED THE INDEPENDENCE OF RHODESIA. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A SITUATION IN WHICH THERE HAS BEEN AN ILLEGAL GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS MOVED OUT OF ITS STATUS, DECLARED INDEPENDENCE UNILATERALLY, AND A SITUATION IN WHICH WE HAVE COOPERATED WITH THE U.K., WHICH WE HAVE CONSIDERED TO BE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT THERE. I DON'T SEE ANYTHING OUT OF LINE IN OUR PARTICIPATION WITH THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO HELP WORK OUT A SOLUTION. AND I DON'T THINK THERE HAS BEEN ANY OBJECTION BY ANY OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED TO OUR ROLE.

Q.: I AM JUST WONDERING WHAT AGAIN THE POLICY MOTIVATION IS FOR AN EXPRESSION OF A FORMULA WHICH MOSTLY YOU SPOKESMEN ARE VERY RELUCTANT TO MAKE FROM THAT PODIUM ABOUT THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

A: WE DO NOT REGARD RHODESIA AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. WE ARE COOPERATING WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IN A SET OF PRINCIPLES WHICH HAS BEEN OUTLINED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM IN COOPERATION WITH US.

Q.: I REALLY CONSIDER THAT TO BE IRRELEVANT. YOU ARE DEALING WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY, WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO CONSIDER THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT TO BE AT WHITEHALL OR WHETHER YOU CONSIDER IT TO BE IN RHODESIA ITSELF. YOU ARE NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSING NOT SIMPLY A POINT OF VIEW, BUT FORMULATING A POLICY FOR A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. I AM JUST WONDERING ON WHAT BASIS YOU DO THAT.

A.: I THINK PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE DEPARTMENT HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR CONCERN OVER A SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE A VERY SERIOUS ONE INTERNATIONALLY, AND ONE TO WHICH WE WOULD HOPE TO HELP FIND A SOLUTION. AND WE HAVE COOPERATED WITH THE UNITED

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Q.: KEN, TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, HAS LONDON SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THIS -- AND I PRESUME WE ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THEM IN A JOINT POSITION?

A.: OZZIE, I DON'T KNOW IF THEY HAVE. IT HAS BEEN VERY RECENT THAT WE HAVE SEEN THIS ON THE WIRES, PROBABLY WITHIN THE LAST HOUR OR SO. WE CERTAINLY WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH THEM.

Q.: DO YOU EXPECT THAT WHEN THERE IS A FORMAL POSITION ON THE SETTLEMENT IN SALISBURY, IF IT IS A SETTLEMENT, THAT IT WILL BE A JOINT ONE?

A.: WE WILL CERTAINLY BE COORDINATING WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Q.: TWO QUICK ONES ON RHODESIA, IF I CAN WRAP TWO VERY QUICK QUESTIONS INTO ONE?

FIRST, DO THE INTERNAL PEOPLE REPRESENT ANYBODY, IN YOUR VIEWPOINT? DO THEY HAVE ANY RIGHT TO BE PART OF THE SETTLEMENT?

A: YES.

Q: SECONDLY, IF YOU CAN ANSWER THIS, ARE WE IN AN ENTRY NOW WITH THE BRITISH OR RHODESIA? ARE WE SORT OF A LEAD HORSE? ARE WE SUPPORTING THEM? I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE JOCKEYING? OF COURSE, EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS TO WORRY ABOUT. I GOT THE IMPRESSION FROM THE PRESS THAT BECAUSE THE BRITISH ARE FACING ELECTIONS, IT IS OUR TURN TO BE IN CHARGE.

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WHO IS RUNNING THIS EFFORT, OR IS IT SORT OF AN

EVENHANDED DUAL PARTNERSHIP FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT IN ZIMBABWE?

A: BARRY, WE ARE WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE BRITISH. WE ARE MOVING ALONG TOGETHER WITH THEM. IT IS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

Q: IS ANDY YOUNG OR DAVID OWEN CALLING THE SHOTS?

A: I WOULDN'T SAY ANYBODY IS CALLING THE SHOTS. IT IS A COOPERATIVE PROCEDURE IN WHICH WE ARE DISCUSSING

WITH THE BRITISH AS TO WHAT TO DO.

Q: DO YOU STILL TAKE THE VIEW THAT IT IS A BRITISH PROBLEM, SINCE CONSTITUTIONALLY THIS IS A BREAK-AWAY COLONY. IT IS UP TO BRITAIN TO RESOLVE IT, AND WE ARE TO HELP THEM IF WE CAN?

A: THE BRITISH ARE THE PRIMARY GOVERNMENT CONCERNED AND WE ARE THERE TO HELP. WE ARE DOING IT IN COOPERATION WITH THEM.

Q: KEN, DO YOU KNOW OF ANY BILATERAL DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE. YOU MENTIONED -- YOUR OBJECTION WAS THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF RHODESIA WHICH I HAVE READ ONCE, AND IT WAS MODELED ON ONE THAT WAS PASSED IN 1776. AND I WAS WONDERING IF YOU KNOW OF ANY BILATERAL DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE?

A: LES, I ASSUME THERE ARE BILATERAL DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE IN WHICH INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN WORKED OUT PEACEFULLY AND CALMLY BETWEEN THE COUNTRY AND THE COLONY.

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BUT THE POINT WAS, AT THE TIME, IN 1965 WHEN THE RHODESIANS DECLARED THEIR INDEPENDENCE, IT WAS A MINORITY GROUP DECLARING INDEPENDENCE.

Q: SO WAS THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, WASN'T IT? WASN'T THAT A MINORITY GROUP -- NO INDIANS, NO BLACKS, NO WOMEN?

A: ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ON RHODESIA?

Q: KEN, ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, WHAT WAS THE SECRETARY'S REACTION TO SEND YOUR RAMONE SANCHEZ PARODES' STATEMENT THAT DESPITE U.S. PROTESTS, NOTHING THE UNITED STATES CAN SAY OR DO WILL ALTER THE CUBAN COMMITMENT IN AFRICA?

A: LES, I GUESS BASICALLY ALL I CAN DO IS TO REITERATE

OUR POSITION THAT WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE CUBANS THAT THERE CAN'T BE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS UNTIL THE CUBAN TROOPS ARE REDUCED. I CAN'T SPEAK FOR HOW THE CUBANS REACT TO THAT OR EXACTLY WHAT THE CUBANS WILL DO.

Q: RIGHT. BY "REDUCED" WE DIDN'T SAY. I MEAN IF THEY SENT BACK A HUNDRED OR A THOUSAND, LEFT 19,000 --

A: WE'D LIKE TO SEE THE TROOPS WITHDRAWN.
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